GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2709
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
FOREST PROTECTION AWARENESS AMONGST TRIBALS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase awareness amongst tribals and forest dwellers on the importance of forest protection;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have spent very little resources on this issue; and

(d) if so, the reasons for ignoring such important facets of forest protection work?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988, Government of India had issued guidelines to the state governments on June 1, 1990 regarding involvement of communities including tribals and forest dwellers in the protection and regeneration of degraded forests under Joint Forest Management (JFM) Programme.The government, after a review of the programme has issued fresh guidelines to the state governments on February 21, 2000 for further strengthening the Joint Forest Management Programme. Under this programme 36,075 JFM committees are protecting 10.24 million ha. of forest in twenty two states of the country. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing basis` for rehabilitation of degraded forest land with the association of scheduled tribes and rural poor is under implementation in fourteen states of the country.